

**REMARKS**

The Office Action mailed October 19, 2004, has been carefully considered. An RCE, IDS, and fee therefor are filed herewith. The present Amendment is intended to be a complete response to the Office Action and to place the case in condition for allowance. The IDS and the present Amendment are intended as a submission required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and are submitted concurrently with the RCE. The RCE is filed to submit new references (listed in the Form PTO-1449) for the Examiner's consideration. The filing of the IDS is not to be deemed an admission that the documents cited therein constitute prior art.

Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 16-28 have been cancelled without prejudice to the subject matter therein. Applicants reserve the right to file the cancelled claims in a timely filed continuation application.

In the October 19, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-15 and requested that withdrawn claims 16-28 be cancelled. Applicants have complied with the Examiner's request by the present Amendment.

Applicants have responded to the Office Action mailed October 19, 2004. All pending claims are now believed to be allowable and favorable action is respectfully requested.

In the event that there are any questions relating to this Amendment or to the application in general, it would be appreciated if the examiner would telephone the undersigned attorney concerning such questions so that the prosecution of this application may be expedited.

Please charge any shortage or credit any overpayment of fees to BLANK ROME LLP, Deposit Account No. 23-2185 (000529-00013). In the event that a petition for an extension of time is required to be submitted herewith and in the event that a separate petition does not

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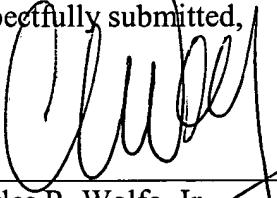
accompany this response, Applicants hereby petition under 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a) for an extension of time for as many months as are required to render this submission timely.

Any fees due are authorized above.

Date: 12/17/04

By:

Respectfully submitted,

  
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